

Certification NEWS

Summer 2008 - Volume 1, Issue 2

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Congratulations on Being Board Certified!

Congratulations to all of you for earning WOCNCB credentials! You now join more than 5,000 certified nurses in wound, ostomy, continence, and/or foot care. The following individuals became board certified from January – March 2008.

Diane M. Adams, RN BSN CWCN
 Marie T. Agrell, RN MSN CWCN
 Trinidad D. Agtarap, RN CWCN
 Evelyn A. Azike, RN BSN CWOCN
 Amy Baulsir, RN BSN CWOCN
 Susan Beard, RN BS CWOCN
 June Bernard, RN BSN CFCN
 Rachel L. Booth, RN MSN CWCN
 Dawn R. Borreson, RN MSN CWOCN
 Barbara V. Boyles, RN BSN CFCN
 Jennifer J. Bradbury, RN BSN CWCN
 Bridget Brauns, RN BSN CWOCN
 Maggie Brown, RN BS CWOCN
 Stephanie L. Bunch, RN BSN CWON
 Jeanette L. Burrell, RN BSN CWCN
 Andrea K. Carano, RN BSN CWOCN
 Melissa Cardine, RN MSN CWCN
 Dawn Carson, RN BA CWOCN
 Scott B. Church, RN BS CWCN
 Stephanie Ann Cox, RN BSN CWCN
 Denise M. Crawford, RN BSN CFCN
 Marcia Cunningham, RN BSN CWCN
 Celeste Cyphernoah, RN BSN CWCN
 Barbara K. Darley, RN BSN CWOCN
 Sharon E. Davis, RN BSN CWCN
 Margaret E. Delgado, RN BSN CWON
 Linda K. Dolezal, RN BA CWOCN
 Mary Downs-Last, RN MSN CWCN
 Leslie Everett, RN BSN CWOCN
 Annie J. Foote, RN BSN COCN
 Suzanne Frederick, RN MSN CWCN
 Elizabeth Gardner, RN CWOCN
 Sharon S. Gavenda, RN BSN CWOCN
 Denise Arleen Gillespie, RN BSN CWOCN
 Heidi Hackbarth, RN BS CWCN
 Amy R. Hart, RN BSN CWCN
 Karen Hartley, RN BSN CWOCN
 Judith A. Hefner, RN BSN CFCN
 Suzanne Heim, RN BSN CWCN
 Tracy Henry, RN BSN CWCN
 Jodi L. Hess, RN BSN CWON
 Mark L. Hodges, RN MSN CWCN
 Melania Howell, RN BSN CWOCN
 Anita R. Huff, RN BSN CWCN
 Pat Hynes, RN CWOCN
 Garth Ireland, RN MSN CWOCN
 Dona L. Isaac, RN BSN COCN

Cathy Jackson, RN BSN COCN
 Karen R. Johnson, RN CFCN
 Melva Jones, RN BSN CWOCN
 Paulette L. Joyce, RN BSN CWON
 Ramona Alvarez Kenyon, RN BSN CWOCN
 Jessica Krieg, RN BSN CWOCN
 Sally M. Kupchock, RN MSN CWCN
 Cynthia Lange-Koschitz, RN BSN CWOCN
 Jaime T. Le, RN BSN CWCN
 Susan K. Lerner, RN CWOCN
 Hillary Lindley, RN BSN CWOCN
 Stephanie Luker, RN BSN CWoN
 Janice M. Maclay, RN BSN CFCN
 Traci Lyn Maier, RN BSN CWON
 Margaret T. Matthews, RN BS CWOCN
 Susan Miller, RN BS CWOCN
 Heather Jo Moore, RN BSN CWCN
 Rachel Neely Moseley, RN BSN CWCN
 Nancy Motycka, RN BSN CWCN
 Felicia N. Munoz, RN BSN CWCN
 Nadine Ruri Nakano, RN BSN CWOCN
 Joanne Nora, RN BSN COCN
 Maria De Los Angeles Page, RN BA CWCN
 Suzanne Kay Pennington, RN BSN CWON
 Jennifer Polak, RN BSN CWOCN
 Heather Rapp, RN BSN CWCN
 Linda Renaud, RN BSN CWCN
 Geralyn C. Retzel, RN BSN CWCN
 Sandra Ricci, RN BSN CWOCN
 Carole J. Richards, RN MSN CWOCN
 Martha Riley, RN BSN CFCN
 Thomas A. Rocas, III, RN BSN CWCN
 Stacey L. Rooney, RN BSN CWOCN
 Letisia Rowland, RN BSN CWON
 Mary Lou Santillo, RN BSN CWCN
 Amanda L. Shepherd, RN BSN CWOCN
 Lyndan C. Simpson, RN BSN CWCN
 CCCN
 Florence R. Smith, RN BSN CWOCN
 June F. Smith, RN BSN CWOCN
 Karen Ann Soderberg-Gomez, RN CWCN
 Margaret L. Spielman, RN MSN CWCN
 Susan G. Staton, RN BSN CWON
 Lisa Stevenson, RN BSN CWON
 Tali Stopak-Mathis, RN BS CWCN
 Audrey Swan, RN BSN CWOCN

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Michelle L. Tilson, RN BSN CWOCN
 Grace I. Umejei, RN BSN CWOCN
 Mary Sue K. Van Dyke, RN BSN CWOCN
 Huong T. Vo, RN BSN CWOCN
 Barbara Walker, RN BSN CWCN
 Tanya R. Wenger, RN BS CWOCN
 Kelle M. Zimmer, RN BS CWCN

Thanks to all of you for maintaining WOCNCB credentials! We are proud you have chosen to continue serving patients with wound, ostomy, continence and/or foot care issues. The following individuals have recertified from January – March 2008.

Lolita M. Adrien, RN MS CG CWON
 Ann Marie Alletto, RN MSN CWCN
 Cecilia Almaguer, RN BSN CWOCN
 Rhonda B. Antonetti, RN MSN CWON
 Dennis E. Arnold, RN BSN CWCN COCN
 Sharon A. Aronovitch, PhD RN CWOCN-AP

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President's Message

*Patti Gable Burke, RN, BSN, CWOCN
WOCNCB Board President*

The mission of the WOCNCB is to promote the highest standard of consumer care and safety by providing credentialing in the areas of wound, ostomy, continence and foot care nursing. As a certification board we need to look through the window and see the things that are going to impact wound, ostomy, continence and foot care nursing.

Last year, the Board began to explore a unique and different credential for the Non-BSN Nurse and the Non-BSN Committee was formed. Over the past year the committee worked to identify the role of the Non-BSN Nurse, while the Board worked to identify Non-BSN Nurses who would participate in a job analysis.

After one year of working on this initiative the Board realized that there were not enough participants to complete a quality job analysis. The Board reviewed the role of the Non-BSN Nurse and after many conference calls and meetings the Board decided that the role of the ADN and BSN Nurses could not be differentiated enough to develop a new and unique credential for this group of nurses.

The Board will continue to investigate a unique and different credential for the LPN. Our existing Non-BSN Committee will be reconfigured with LPNs and CWOCNs who work with LPNs in the various health-care settings. The existing members of the committee are busy reviewing each state's Nurse Practice Act for the LPN, with the goal of identifying the role of the LPN in wound, ostomy and continence care.

The Board has also decided to move forward with the development of an Advanced Practice Exam in wound, ostomy and continence care. We will be forming an Advanced Practice Exam Committee to begin the development of a job analysis for CWOCNs that are working in the advanced practice role.

The Board is excited to move forward with these initiatives with the goal of raising/maintaining the high level of WOC care that our certifiants provide. If you know of an LPN who is providing wound, ostomy or continence care or an Advanced Practice CWOCN who would like to participate on one of the committees, please contact Kathy Meyer at 1-888-496-2622.



Upholding the Gold Standard:

The WOCNCB Exam

*Amy Schaffner, RN, MS, CWOCN
Board Liaison: WOC Exam Committee*

Introduction

Mention the WOCNCB board exam in a group of WOC nurses and you always get a diverse response, everyone with a decisive opinion! Simply by nature any type of board exam elicits an uneasy reaction. The decision to take a specialty board exam denotes a certain degree of professional dedication. It requires additional training, commitment, and discipline.

The American Board of Nursing Specialties defines certification as "the formal recognition of specialized knowledge, skills and experience demonstrated by the achievement of standards identified by a nursing specialty to promote optimal health".

Credentialing programs offer a number of advantages. Foremost, they serve as a

mechanism to offer consumers and employers the assurance that standards of practice have been met. The literature cites certification as a key contributor to quality assurance and the reduction in healthcare errors. In essence, certification is a method of ensuring public safety.

Additionally, certification is a distinguishing feature. It offers the certificant a sense of professional achievement, credibility, and opportunity for career advancement. Candidates seeking WOCNCB certification are well aware of the value of WOCNCB certification to their career. WOCNCB certification in wound, ostomy, continence, and foot and nail nursing are highly sought credentials by nurses and employers alike.

In order to better appreciate the WOCNCB exams, it is helpful to look at the exam eight step process. The pass rate of the



WOCNCB exam will then be compared to the pass rate of other nursing specialty certification exams.

Exam Development Process

In developing and administering the exam, the WOCNCB contracts with a testing company, Applied Measurement Professionals, Inc. (AMP), which provides a psychometrician and testing team to maintain exam administration. Additionally, they

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UPHOLDING THE GOLD STANDARD: Continued from page 3

uphold established procedures for standardization, security, and confidentiality.

The WOCNCB certification program is accredited by two independent external accrediting agencies, the American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) and the National Commission of Certifying Agencies (NCCA). These accreditations each require the WOCNCB to meet stringent and rigorous standards in issuing the WOC credential. Such requirements include meeting standards with regards to exam development and administration.

This accreditation process ensures that WOC certificants have earned credentials that are respected and valued among peers, other medical providers, and employers alike. The stringent WOCNCB certification process ensures the exam is psychometrically sound (follows rigid guidelines related to the science of testing) and legally defensible (meets uniformed guidelines, standards, and best practices related to constructing and implementing a standardized exam).

Exam development and maintenance is a multi-layered process. The following is a step-by-step look at what is involved:

Step 1: Before an exam is written, a content expert panel is assembled. This panel is composed of practitioners based on education, experience and comprehensive knowledge of the specialty. They are tasked to develop a role delineation or job analysis survey to identify performance domains (tasks, knowledge and/or skills) related to the WOC specialty.

Step 2: Next, the job analysis survey is distributed to a diverse population of practitioners to gather input regarding the most current WOC practice patterns.

Step 3: Job analysis survey results are then analyzed. The results are compiled to create a test content outline. The job analysis survey is an important tool in assuring that current specialty practice is reflected in the exam.

Step 4: The Exam Committee, a group of volunteer practicing WOC nurses write exam questions, based on topics identified in the test content outline. Each question is carefully reviewed for validity and quality by the entire committee, with guidance from

the contracted testing company before being utilized on the exam. Unanimous agreement by the Exam Committee is required for each question. Agreement is ascertained on multiple pre-established factors. For example, the Exam Committee must agree that the question is: a) relevant to practice b) linked to the content outline c) clearly written d) contains entry level content e) contains one best answer and plausible but incorrect distractors (wrong answers) f) has an absence of any type of inappropriate bias and g) can be supported by reference materials (Sources in the literature are cited for each question.).

Step 5: The next step in the process is to construct the exams. This is accomplished by the Exam Committee in collaboration with the testing company. During the test construction process, the group assures appropriate level of content and difficulty for each exam. There are at least two different versions of each exam being rotated throughout the testing cycle on a regular basis, to ensure test security. There are a total of ninety questions on each specialty exam. Embedded in each exam are ten unscored questions included as to determine their suitability as future scored questions. New questions must be continuously written in order to maintain security of the exam, and also to reflect current practice.

Step 6: For each testing period, the testing company scores the tests, as well as performs a question analysis. Bearing in mind the ten unscored questions on the exam, only eighty (80) questions are used to compute the candidate's score. Passing standards are determined by a statistical formula, which may change, based on each testing cycle. Statistical equating procedures are performed to ensure a consistent level of difficulty for each different test form administered.

Step 7: The job analysis survey is repeated approximately every five years. At this time, the test content outline is revised as needed to assure that the certification examination captures current specialty practice. As mentioned in step three, the purpose of the job analysis is to ensure that the overall examination composition is a current and appropriate reflection of practice.

Step 8: The final "step" is continuous revision and approval of questions. The

Exam Committee ensures that questions remain current and relevant. Each new question goes through the same rigorous process discussed in Step four, to ensure its' suitability for pretesting in the exam. Before any question is used to calculate a candidate's score, it must be approved through unanimous agreement of the Exam Committee on at least three occasions. Only then is the question allowed for pretesting (non scored question). Pretest statistics are computed and evaluated by the testing company to ensure the question performs appropriately.

How do we compare with others?

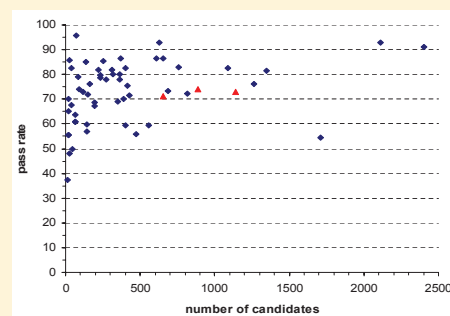
Next, we will look at how WOCNCB ranks with regards to exam passing rates with other nursing specialty organizations. Specifically, let's examine how WOCNCB stacks up against 60 nursing specialty certification programs with regards to passing rates in 2007. In Table I, we find that the mean passing rate from 60 nursing specialty certification programs during 2007 was 73%. Passing rates for three programs with large candidate volumes and a mean passing rate of 73% was not included in this data. It was excluded to make the scatter plot less congested.

The range of passing rates shown is from 37% to 96%; most are between 55% and 90%. The overall percentage of candidates passing is 76%, because larger programs tended to have slightly higher passing rates. As you can see, WOCNCB passing rates are right in the middle, with passing rates of 71-74%.

For reference, in the graph below, WOCNCB marked with the red triangles and may be located right in the middle.

Wound, 1139 candidates, 73% pass;
Ostomy, 889 candidates, 74% pass;
Continence, 657 candidates, 71% pass.

Table I



(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

Report on Evidence-Based Practice Initiatives

Pat Collins, RN, MSN, APRN-BC, CWOCN

Board Liaison: Evidence-Based Practice Committee

In the fall of 2007, the WOCNB approved moving forward with the formation of a committee to examine current research studies, related articles in the literature, regulatory policies, and position statements in the fields of wound, ostomy, continence and foot and nail care. The goal of the committee is to provide updated information to the examination committees, Professional Growth Program (PGP) committee, and to disseminate it to the certificants published annually. The objectives are to enhance, inform and change practice standards, based on evidence in the literature.

This committee is chaired by Jane Fellows. Pat Collins is the WOCNCB Board Liaison. Committee members are: Dorothy Doughty, Sharon Cassidy-Evans, Bev Folkedahl, Mikel Gray, Katherine Moore and Margaret Falconio-West.

The committee met May 16 - 17, 2008 in Atlanta. Early on, it became apparent that this was going to be a monumental task and that the first issue would include 2007 & 2008. Since the committee does not have a member that is certified in Foot & Nail Care (CFCN), it is now looking for volunteers. Certificants from the foot and nail care field are encouraged to contact Jane

Fellows at jane.fellows@duke.edu, to be considered for a committee appointment.

The WOCNCB Board and committee members are excited about this new effort. With the very busy lives we lead, it is difficult to stay up-to-date with current research & knowledge within the field. This publication will offer brief and concise information with reference to the complete articles for the reader who want to do further investigation. Spring 2009 will be the debut of the publication followed by annual issues reviewing the previous year's literature.

WOCNCB Selects Winners for 2008

Carol Calianno, RN, MSN, CWOCN

Board Liaison: Awards Committee

Employer Recognition Award

The Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing Certification Board (WOCNCB) awarded Westcare Health System of Sylva, North Carolina and The Valley Hospital of Ridgewood, New Jersey the 2008 WOCNCB Employer Recognition Awards. These facilities have demonstrated support for nurses seeking certification and recognition of those that have succeeded.

Among the criteria necessary to win this award, the organizations must document the financial support for certification, evidence of organization-wide recognition of achievement of the WOCNCB credentials, salary increases are awarded to certified nurses, and WOCNCB credentials are mentioned when recruiting nurse positions, among other things. This demonstrates a real commitment to WOC certification. Other criteria include how the organization supports nurses interested in seeking certification by providing reimbursement of certification examination fees, providing certification examination review courses or reimbursing for attendance at a review course, and/or providing paid time off to take a certification examination or review course.

Westcare Health System and Valley Hospital have clearly recognized the value of

WOC certification and have promoted certification for the benefit of their patients and the professional development of their nurses. These organizations have each been awarded a Grant in the amount of \$1,000 to be used toward certification or recertification of their nurses.

Individual Award Winners for the 2008 Certification Grant

Since its founding in 1978, WOCNCB has been promoting the highest standard of consumer care and safety by providing credentialing in the areas of wound, ostomy, continence and foot care nursing. The WOCNCB Certification Grant was developed as a means to publicly recognize certificants who are highly motivated, currently in clinical practice, and who are in a position which will enable them to disseminate knowledge acquired through certification to others in their practice setting. Among the criteria necessary to win this award, these candidates confirmed their clinical strengths, interests and challenges and their ability to demonstrate the use of certification in their daily practice.

These nurses were selected as recipients of the 2008 WOCNCB Certification Grant. They will each receive financial reimbursement up to \$450.00 towards their next certification fee.



Anne Brennecke, RN, BA, CNS, CWOCN and GERALYN BOYCE, RN, BA, CWON Accepting the Award for Valley Hospital, Ridgewood, NJ



Joanne Burtner, RN, BSN, CWCN, CCCN and LORELEI YERSE, RN, BSN, CWOCN Accepting the award for Westcare Health System, Sylva, NC

Congratulations to:

Susan L. Maditz, RN, MSN, CWOCN of Fairmont, West Virginia

Patricia A. Lipschultz, RN, BSN, CWOCN of Highland, California

Dawn M. Julian, APRN, MSN, CWON of Westmoreland, Kansas

Resources at your Fingertips

Donna Loehner, RN, BSN, CWOCN
Board Liaison: PGP Committee

STOP!! Now is the time to take a minute and check out our new website. Certification promotes the highest standard of patient care. The WOCNCB has many resources available to you with the click of your mouse.

Did you know you can receive a certification award that will absorb the cost of your certification? Its called the WOCNCB Certification Grant. This grant was developed as a means to publicly recognize certificants who are highly motivated, currently in clinical practice, and who are in a position which will enable them to disseminate knowledge acquired through certification to others in their practice setting. **Go to the www.wocncb.org website and click on Awards & Grants.**

Did you know that Information is at your fingertips to assist you in preparing for the certification exam? We have tools to assist you being successful and to hopefully relieve your anxiety when you can accomplish the SAE and you can now feel comfortable with your knowledge base to sit for the exam. **Go to the www.wocncb.org website and click on Become Certified / Test Preparation.**

Did you know PGP is a wonderful alternative to recertify? It takes your practice far and beyond a place you could ever imagine. Think of how rewarding it is to look back on your achievements over the

past 5 years that you have documented in your portfolio. It certainly can alleviate the test anxiety we all feel when its time to recertify. By downloading the handbook, it provides you the avenues you can take to complete this exciting venture. **Go to the www.wocncb.org website and click on Recertification / PGP.**

Did you know that all certifications vary as to the requirements, the clinical and most importantly the quality of education you receive? Check out our website for our wound care certification comparison chart and you make the decision as to where you would like to acquire your certification. **Go to the www.wocncb.org website and click on Resources / Marketing.**

Did you know our foot and nail certification is growing with more CWOCN's adding this specialty to their practice? How many diabetic feet did you see in your practice today? Do you know what onychomycosis is? The foot and nail committee has been working hard for you in preparing a foot and nail handbook. Be sure to look at our website to see if this certification interests you. **Go to the www.wocncb.org website and click on Become Certified / Foot and Nail.**

Did you know we have an advanced practice recertification that involves a portfolio process? Our committee is diligently working on other alternatives for certification as

well as presently updating our handbook. Stay tuned to our new and exciting website for information to come. **Go to the www.wocncb.org website and click on Become Certified / Advanced Practice.**

Marketing our certification has been a strong initiative both with the WOCNCB and the WOCN Society. The WOCNCB has valuable tools to share with your employer, your patient and your decision makers to educate them on what a certified wocncb can bring to the table. **Go to the www.wocncb.org website and click on Administrators.**

There are so many other valuable pieces of information that are right there for you to use to enhance your practice. Our link to the WOCN Society website provides you with information on determining if your salary is comparable to others in your field, finding valuable clinical guidelines to enhance your knowledge and practice on specific WOC topics. A position statement on competencies can also be found on the WOCN website. **Go to the www.wocncb.org website and click on Resources / Links.**

Our website has a different look because you, the certificant, has asked for a more user-friendly website to retrieve information important to your practice. We hope you like what we have done and we look forward to your feedback.

UPHOLDING THE GOLD STANDARD Continued from page 4

This data suggests that our exam is reasonably positioned, when compared with other nursing specialty certification exams in terms of passing rates. This tells us that while WOCNCB holds exceedingly high standards, our candidates pass the exam at a rate that is attainable, and that is in line with other nursing specialty certification exams.

Conclusion:

What makes CWOCN credentials so well regarded? A history of nurses who have met WOCNCB criterion, earning the reputation of excellence for over thirty years.

Professional achievement and credibility is grounded in WOCNCB certification. In an era of multiple certification offerings for wound care, we must uphold the quality of our standards. The extra steps taken to ensure a certification process ingrained in integrity is the mainstay of what sets us apart in the industry.

Many patients, employers, and physicians understand the benefit of a CWOCN nurse. This is why employment and professional growth opportunities for WOCNCB certified nurses are laden with potential as never before. The future is very bright.

Take pride in your WOCNCB exam! The WOCNCB, along with the Exam Com-

mittee, serve to maintain the standards, in part by ensuring a psychometrically sound and legally defensible exam. Above all, the Board exists to ensure integrity is maintained in all aspects of upholding your CWOCN credentials.

WOCNCB ... The Gold Standard of Certification!

References:

- American Nurses Credentialing Center (2007). Why should nurses get certified? <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/564133>. Accessed November 7, 2007.
- Stromberg, M, et al (2005). Specialty certification: more than a title. *Nursing Management*, 36(5), 36-46.

Celebrate and Reunite

Jeannine Thompson BSN, RN, CWOCN
Board Liaison: Marketing Committee

WOCN Conference

During the WOCN Society's 40th Annual Conference held June 21-25, 2008 in Orlando Florida, the Wound Ostomy Continence Nursing Certification Board (WOCNCB) celebrated 30 years of certifying over 5,000 dedicated nurses in wound, ostomy, continence and foot care nursing. We are proud to say that these credentials are viewed as the "Gold Standard" within the healthcare industry since 1978.

Board members promoted WOCNCB's 30 years of credentialing at the WOCN Society's 40th Annual Conference and tradeshow – with 1,725 in attendance! We were happy that so many of you stopped by our booth to help us celebrate! WOCNCB also hosted several meetings and sessions while in Orlando – here are some highlights:

Friday, June 20th

The Board met with the WOCN Education Program Directors to discuss the activities of the Board.

Saturday, June 21st

A Professional Growth Program (PGP) portfolio sharing session was held during the networking sessions. During this session many WOC nurses had the opportunity to receive assistance developing their PGP portfolio with help from the "experts".

The sharing session was followed by the WOCN Society Regional meetings. WOCNCB Board members attended these meetings to answer questions about our five-year Strategic Plan.

Among the topics covered were:

- Non-BSN Credentials and the LPN Job Analysis
- Advanced Practice RN Exam
- New Evidence Based Practice Committee
- Employer Recognition Award
- Certification Grant
- Benevolence Fund
- WOCNCB Website's new look
- Foot Care Certification popularity

Sunday, June 22

During the Opening Session Patti Gable Burke, RN BSN CWOCN, WOCNCB President presented two 2008 WOCNCB Employer Recognition Awards during the awards Program.

Westcare Health System of Sylva, North Carolina and Valley Hospital Ridgewood, New Jersey both received the first annual WOCNCB Employer Recognition Award. More information about this award can be found on the WOCNCB website page <http://www.wocncb.org/awards-and-grants/>.

In the Exhibit Hall attendees were encouraged to complete a survey for a chance to win a daily prize raffle – a gift certificate for the applicants' certification fee, up to \$450.00 if certifying in all four certifications! Nearly 600 surveys were completed, and WOCNCB will publish the results of the survey in the near future. Grand Prize Winners Included: Sharon Osgood from Massachusetts, Brenda Barber from Missouri and Paige Atwood from Colorado. Congratulations to our lucky WOC nurses!!!

WOCNCB booth visitors were treated to an engraved gold business card holder to exemplify the WOCN certification as the Gold Standard in wound, ostomy and continence nursing. The WOCNCB credential pins were sold at the exhibit. Additional pins can be purchased by going to the WOCNCB web site. Please check them out on our website at: www.wocncb.org/resources/marketing-resources

The WOCNCB provided receipt envelopes to all conference attendees to assist them in managing their receipts from the convention for reimbursement or tax purposes. As an added bonus, printed on the envelopes was a list of the Conference Sessions sponsored by the WOCNCB. The positive response from these envelopes was overwhelming.

The Exam Handbook, Professional Growth Program Handbook 2008, Advanced Practice Portfolio Handbook and the Foot and Nail Handbook flew off the shelves. Participants also picked up copies of the

WOCNCB Fact Sheet titled, "Wound Certification Comparison Chart". This fact sheet provides information on how the WOCNCB credentials uphold the Gold Standard for Certification and can be found at www.wocncb.org/pdf/cert_comparison.pdf

Monday, June 23rd

Patti Gable Burke, BSN, RN, CWOCN, the WOCNCB President highlighted activities of the WOCNCB during the Annual Business Meeting of the WOCN Society.

Mikel Gray PhD, FNP, PNP, CUNP, FAANP, CCCN, FAAN presented "Marketing the Gold Standard: Educating Others About WOCNCB Certification". Mikel focused on marketing the WOC nurses' expertise as valuable, not only for professional growth but for potential job security. "Spreading the word" on what, you, as a WOC nurse can do and how it can help you to excel within your work environment.

Tuesday, June 24th

Donna Loehner, BSN, RN, CWOCN lead an interactive session on the Professional Growth Program (PGP). This program's objective was to aid certificants in the development of a professional practice portfolio, with a step-by-step review of the application process.

Donna Thompson, MSN, CRNP, BC, CCCN, gave her presentation "Dare to be Different: Individualizing the Care of Patients with Dementia and Incontinence". We are proud to have Board members share their expertise – and Donna is one of them!

Thank you for helping us celebrate 30 years of credentialing! We look forward to seeing and hearing from you at the next WOCN Society Conference, June 6-10, 2009 in St. Louis, MO.





Highlights from the World Council of Enterostomal Therapy (WCET)

Conference 2008 – Ljubljana, Slovenia

Kathleen Wright, RN, BC, MS, CWOCN, APRN

Imagine a Conference center filled with over 1,300 ET/WOC nurses who are as passionate about excellence in patient care as you are. I know you have experienced that if you have attended our national WOCN Society conference, but let me add that less than 1% of this conference's attendees were from the United States. During the opening session, international delegates garbed in representative costumes of nearly 50 countries proudly paraded across the stage to local musicians' spirited tunes. I was honored to represent the Wound Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board (WOCNCB) at the World Council of Enterostomal Therapy (WCET) conference from June 16-19, 2008 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Over 125 posters and 300 speakers contributed to busy days full of learning opportunities, and networking with clinical peers from across the world. It was a wonderful experience. Many of the educational presentations were brief case study discussions, reminiscent of our WOCN Society Conference favorite, "Nightmares on ET Street"; some were proudly provided by first-time speakers from developing countries who creatively managed overwhelmingly difficult clinical situations with limited product resources. Invited lecturers included the well-known Elizabeth Ayello, PhD, RN, APRN,

BC, CWOCN, FAAN and Gary Sibbald, MD, FRCpC, ABIM, DABD, Med who co-presented an informative session on "evidence - informed practice"; this concept described not only published research, but also the patient's perspective, coupled with the expertise and experience of the clinician. This twist on evidence - based practice gave attendees much food for thought and further discussion.

As I presented a poster on "WOCNCB Certification: the Value and the Process", I was privileged to stand beside clinicians from Denmark and Japan whose work focused on the development of WOC educational programs in their respective countries. Animated motions, much like a game of "charades", enabled communication when language failed, while smiles and laughter provided a common denominator. The planning committee of Slovenian nurses received a standing ovation with thunderous applause as the conference came to a close; the WCET flag was presented to the United States representative and immediate – past Vice President of WCET, Susan Stelton as she announced the 2010 WCET conference. It will be held in conjunction with our own WOCN Society conference in Phoenix, AZ. I look forward to seeing you, along with my newly-found international friends, at this historic first in 2010!



Update on Advanced Practice Initiatives

Donna L. Thompson, MSN, CRNP, FNP-BC, CCCN

Board Liaison: Advanced Practice and Experiential/Graduate Pathway

There is much talk out there about licensure and certification of advanced practice nurses. Your board is actively advocating for our WOC advanced practice certification. This spring, I attended the Advanced Practice Roundtable of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. In July, Board President Patti Gable Burke attended the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists CNS Summit.

Various advanced practice groups have proposed that advanced practice nurses, Nurse Practitioners, and Clinical Nurse Specialists be given the title APRN. These

groups advocate that entry into APRN practice be defined as being prepared with core competencies in one of four APRN roles (Nurse Anesthetist, Nurse Midwife, CNS, or Nurse Practitioner) and in one of five population segments (Psych/Mental Health, Women's Health/Gender Specific, Adult/Gerontology, Pediatrics, Neonatal and Family/Individual Across the Lifespan). Certification of the APRN is proposed to reflect this model.

CWOCN-AP certification provides added value to the specialty APN role and demonstrates a commitment to quality

evidenced-based practice. The WOCNCB is currently in the process of revising our portfolio criteria to better reflect current practice and education as well as taking steps toward developing an APN certification exam.

If you need help getting started with your APN portfolio, contact the WOCNCB by posting a question in "Ask the Board" section of the WOCNCB website or by calling the national office at 888-496-2622.

FAQ

In each newsletter, the WOCNCB features three commonly asked questions to assist our dedicated and loyal Certificants.

Question: How do I know what qualifies for recertification using the Professional Growth Program (PGP)?

Answer: The PGP Handbook outlines the details of how to recertify by PGP. Once you have reviewed the information and are assembling your portfolio, you may contact the WOCNCB with questions. We are happy to be a resource. There is also a place on the www.wocncb.org website, "Ask the Board", which allows you to post and view questions and answers. Ask the Board is a great way to get answers.

Question: My credentials have lapsed, how can I recertify?

Answer: You must reapply as a new candidate by documenting your eligibility and successfully completing a standardized exam. Please review the requirements on our www.wocncb.org website under "Become Certified".

Question: Are there review courses to prepare me for the certification exams?

Answer: There are various resources available to you – simply visit www.wocncb.org under "Become Certified" and review the "Test Preparation" section.

Marketing Your Certification

The WOCNCB has been working very hard to help increase the awareness of the value of your certification to administrators, executives, WOC nurses and the public.

CONFERENCES where the WOCNCB has been working for you:

Northeast Regional WOCN Fall Conference

October 12-14, 2007
Tarrytown, NY

South Central Region WOCN Fall Conference

Oct 11-13, 2007
Baton Rouge, LA

LSU Health Sciences Center Diabetes Foot Program

April 3-4, 2008
Hammond, LA

American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) Annual Meeting & Expo

April 26 – 28, 2008
Washington State Convention Center – Seattle, Washington

World Council of Enterostomal Therapists (WCET) Biennial Congress

June 15 – 19, 2008
Ljubljana, Slovenia

Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses (WOCN) Society's 40th Annual Conference

June 21 – 25, 2008
Marriott World Center Hotel – Orlando, Florida

ANCC Magnet Conference

October 15 - 17, 2008
Salt Lake City, Utah

Clinical Symposium on Advances in Skin & Wound Care

October 27 – 29, 2008
Rio Hotel & Casino – Las Vegas, Nevada

JOURNAL advertisements:

Journal on Nursing Administration (JONA) - American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE)

Journal of Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing (JWOCN) – WOCN Society

The Director – National Association Directors of Nursing Administration/Long term Care (NADONA)

Decision Health publication "Success in Home Care/Home Care Outcomes"



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Online Credential Verification Available

The WOCNCB® has online credential verification on its website. This resource allows employers to quickly access credentialing information. It also benefits certificants who want to check the expiration date of their credentials. This service is updated quarterly, and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week by visiting www.wocncb.org.

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Certification NEWS

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